



## PRESS RELEASE

### **United Nations General Assembly resolutions highlight contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity for oceans agenda and implementation of Rio + 20 outcomes.**

Montreal 21 December 2012. The 67<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly has recognized the importance of recent decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including those dealing with implementation of the global oceans agenda and realization of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development “Rio + 20” - “the future we want.”

The extensive references to the CBD and the results of its eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) in the resolutions of the General Assembly<sup>1</sup> demonstrate the increasing recognition of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for sustainable development. Echoing the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, the general Assembly noted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets including the target for the protection of at least 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020.

Recognizing that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is a comprehensive framework for the biodiversity related Conventions and the entire United Nations system. Governments noted the efforts to mainstream the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the contribution of the United Nations system to support the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and invited the United Nations system to continue facilitating cooperation among its members in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

The General Assembly also welcomed the Conference of the Parties decision on resource mobilization, which called for an overall substantial increase of total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from a variety of sources.

The General Assembly invited parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, so as to ensure its early entry into force and its implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 67/78 on Oceans and law of the Sea, adopted on 11th December 2012, and the draft resolutions A/C.2/L.27 and A/C.2/L.58 as adopted on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

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The role of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the protection of the world's oceans was extensively referred to in its Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (Resolution 67/78). Governments noted with appreciation the overall scientific and technical work carried out under the CBD related to marine and coastal habitats, emphasizing the importance of the ecosystem approach.

In particular, they highlighted the recent work, within the framework of the CBD, to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) according to agreed scientific criteria.

The General Assembly further recognized the work of the CBD related to oceans and climate change mitigation and adaptation, referring to COP 11 decisions relating to ocean acidification, and the regulation of ocean fertilization and other forms of so-called “geo-engineering.”

The General Assembly expressed its gratitude to the governments of India for hosting COP-11 and welcomed the decision to hold COP-12 in the Republic of Korea. It also noted with appreciation the recent appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, and expressed their support for his tenure.

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#### **Notes for Editors:**

Results of the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, as they are available can be found at: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/67/resolutions.shtml>

The report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee on sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly can be found in document A/67/437/Add.6

#### **About the Convention on Biological Diversity**

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 163 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. For more information visit: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int).

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